

SYSTEM WITH REPLACEMENT METER COVER

Abstract

A system can be used with an existing meter that has a removable cover and a base and measures the usage of a utility commodity, such as electricity. The system replaces the removable cover with a replacement cover that fits onto the base in the same manner as the removable cover. The system has a usage reader inside the replacement cover that obtains information on the amount of the utility commodity that is used. No electrical or mechanical connection between the usage reader and the meter is made to obtain that information. An automatic meter reader, which includes a microprocessor for storing information and calculating charges and a transmitter for transmitting information to a remote receiver and a way to transfer information from the usage reader to the automatic meter reader is also part of the system.